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Open Letter to Delawareans

September 29, 2008

Dear Fellow Delawarean:

Later this week I will be reporting for active duty with the United States Army as a member of the Delaware Army National Guard. I have known that this deployment was a possibility for the past year. When I learned that my deployment was likely, I actively began a process that lasted several months to develop a plan for how the Delaware Department of Justice will function during my deployment.

While I am deployed I plan to be in contact with my senior leadership as often as my duties and the Army will allow. However, I have full confidence in the entire Department to continue to work effectively and to meet my objectives over the next year. I have the finest senior leadership team of any Attorney General in this Country. My senior leadership, including the Chief Deputy Attorney General, Chief of Staff, and Division Heads, are all exceptionally qualified and experienced prosecutors and managers. I am confident that my team will implement my plans and initiatives while I am deployed. My senior leadership consists of the following individuals:

- Chief Deputy Attorney General Richard Gebelein: 35 years of public and private service; former Delaware Attorney General and retired Delaware Superior Court Judge after 21 years of distinguished service; retired Colonel in the Delaware Army National Guard.
- Chief of Staff Teresa Mason: 26 years of service in the public and private sectors; former Bank Executive, New York City Sheriff; former prosecutor (Bronx District Attorney's Office) and New York State Tax Enforcement Assistant Commissioner.
- State Prosecutor Richard Andrews: 25 years of experience prosecuting criminals; served in leadership positions in the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Delaware for 19 years, including service as Chief of the Criminal Division, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, and U.S. Attorney.
- State Solicitor Lawrence Lewis: 15 years of service to the Delaware Department of Justice, in addition to private practice; previously supervised the Civil Division's Government Services Group; represented several state agencies in complex commercial transactions.
- Fraud and Consumer Protection Division Director Timothy Mullaney: 32 years of public service experience including: former U.S. Marshal for Delaware, retired Lieutenant from the City of Dover Police Department, and former County Attorney for the New Castle County Law Office.
- Family Division Director Patricia Dailey Lewis: 23 years of experience in the field of Family and Child Advocacy and Protection; served as Head of the Child Protection, Child Support, and

Consumer Protection Intake Units. She serves as an Adjunct Professor of Family Law at Widener Law School.

Over the past several months my senior leadership and I have met at length to review how the Department of Justice will operate while I am deployed. During that time we have worked together to establish clear and detailed objectives for each Division for the next year. These include:

- **Programmatic Priorities:** We will work to establish a Delaware Department of Justice Homicide Unit, expand our successful Nuisance Abatement, Community Prosecution, and Child Predator programs, and fully implement our recently-announced Senior Protection Initiative.
- **Legislative Priorities:** We will propose a Constitutional Amendment on Bail, which will permit bail to be denied for certain violent and dangerous offenders. We will urge the General Assembly to pass the False Claims legislation I proposed last year. This legislation will help us combat fraud against government contracts and programs and allow Delaware to receive additional funds from Medicaid fraud recoveries. We will also propose legislation that provides full financial recovery for victims in criminal cases, enhances penalties for those who violate our environmental laws, and increases penalties for criminals who carry concealed deadly weapons.
- **Budget Priorities:** We have worked ahead in preparing the Department's Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal. Our budget request for next year will include new funding for critically-needed staff positions to support existing and new initiatives, including a Department of Justice Homicide Unit and our successful Nuisance Abatement and Senior Protection programs. We will also request funding for new support staff positions to ease the crushing workload in several of our units.

I am grateful, as I know are all the members of my Unit, for your kind thoughts and prayers. I am honored to serve with such dedicated men and women in the Delaware National Guard, and equally honored to serve with my exceptional team at the Delaware Department of Justice. When I have completed my deployment I will look forward to returning to my family and continuing the work toward my objectives as Attorney General of this great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph R. Biden, III". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Beau Biden
Attorney General